

Standard 6-2 The student will demonstrate an understanding of life in ancient classical civilizations and their contribution to the modern world.

6.2.5 Summarize the significant features of the classical Indian civilization, including the caste system and contributions to the modern world in literature, the arts, and mathematics. (H, G)

Taxonomy Level: A 2 Understand/Factual Knowledge

Previous/future knowledge: This is the first time students have been taught about classical Indian civilization.

In Global Studies, students will explain the impact of religion in classical Indian civilization, including Hinduism and the effects of its beliefs and practices on daily life. . (GS-1.4).

It is essential for students to have an understanding of classical India and those characteristics which help define it. It is important for students to understand the development of the caste system during this time which helped provide order and stability to society and gave expression to basic Hindu beliefs such as reincarnation, karma, and dharma. It also helped provide social order and stability in an era that saw much political instability. Four major castes developed – the Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaisyas, and the Sudras. A fifth group, known as the Untouchables or Outcasts, was created. Each caste had distinct roles in society and caste guided members in issues such as occupation, foods eaten, and marriage. Students should also recognize the cultural expression manifested in classical Indian society and its continued importance through history. Most of the art, literature, and architecture in classical India centered on religious themes and expression. The classical era saw an emphasis on building temples and producing art and sculptures that underscored Hindu beliefs. Indian literature evolved over time and largely focused on holy writings or the creation of stories supporting Hindu themes. The period is famous for its epics, with the two most notable epics being the *Mahabharata* and the *Ramayana*. Later classical writings in Sanskrit focused on drama, poetry, or scholarly articles. Dance became a popular and fervent expression that continues to today. Additionally students need to understand that learning excelled during the classical era. Mathematics and astronomy are two fields that experienced tremendous advances. For example, Hindu-Arabic numerals were developed, the concept of zero was created, and the field of algebra originated.

It is not essential for students to know particular works of literature and art created during the classical Indian civilization. While students should have knowledge of how the caste system was organized (particularly when seen in conjunction with 6-2.1) it is not necessary for them to know detailed description of the levels of the caste system or to know the sub-castes.

Assessment guidelines: In order to measure understanding of the classical Indian civilization, appropriate assessments will require students to **explain** the significance of

the caste system in the development of classical Indian civilization. It would be appropriate for students to **describe** how the caste system was an expression of basic Hindu beliefs. It would be fitting for students to **summarize** the characteristics of Indian cultural expressions (art, literature, etc.) and to be able to identify examples/non-examples of this work. Assessment could also require students to justify the importance of Indian mathematical development from this era.